CITY AND COUNTY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES OF THE CITY

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY
OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

August, 1937.

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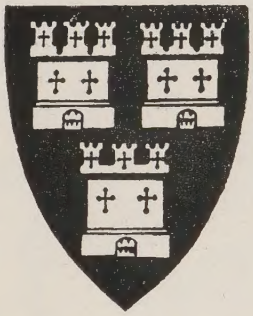

THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES OF THE CITY

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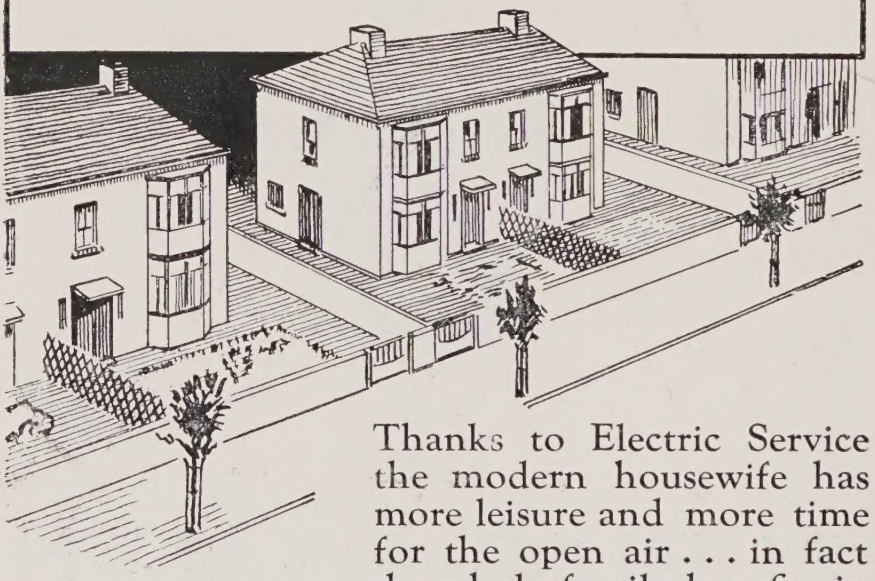

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HEALTH COMMITTEE.

THE RIGHT HON. THE LORD MAYOR
(Alderman JOHN GRANTHAM, J.P.).

CHAIRMAN :

*Councillor WALTER THOMPSON, J.P. (*also Chairman of the Insanitary Property Sub-Committee*).

VICE-CHAIRMAN :

*Alderman DAVID ADAMS, J.P., M.P.

*Alderman JOHN CHAPMAN (*Chairman of Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee*).

Alderman WILLIAM LOCKE, J.P.

Alderman JOHN MOORE, J.P.

*Councillor CATHERINE A. AULD, J.P. (*Vice-Chairman of Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee*).

Councillor ALFRED E. BEDSON.

*Councillor CATHERINE A. LOCKE, J.P.

Councillor HENRY MOAT (*Vice-Chairman of Sub-Committee as to Human Tuberculosis*).

*Councillor MAY NEWTON (*Vice-Chairman of General Purposes Sub-Committee*).

*Councillor JAMES PEARSON, J.P. (*Chairman of Sub-Committee as to Human Tuberculosis and Vice-Chairman of the Insanitary Property Sub-Committee*).

Councillor ROBERT M. ROWE (*Chairman of General Purposes Sub-Committee*).

*Councillor JOHN E. SCANLAN, O.B.E., J.P. (*Chairman of Hospitals Sub-Committee*).

Councillor S. THOMAS TAYLOR.

The following, in addition to those members of the Health Committee marked *, constitute the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee :—

Councillor JEANIE L. GIBBIN, O.B.E., J.P. } Appointed by City
Councillor FRANCES E. TAYLOR, J.P. } Council.

Dr R. P. RANKEN LYLE, J.P., M.A., M.D., F.C.O.G. } Co-opted
Dr. J. C. SPENCE, M.C., F.R.C.P. } members.
Mrs. T. A. HIGGINBOTTOM }

INTRODUCTION.

OUR CITY under one name or another has been a place of human habitation for nearly two thousand years. The record of certain attempts and strivings which were obviously concerned with the health and welfare of the population can be found in the earliest pages of its history, but for any evidence of organised and directed endeavour we cannot look beyond the middle of the 18th century. There we find, in close conjunction, three events of notable importance. Firstly, in 1751, the provision of proper hospital accommodation as seen in the opening of the institution which we now know as the Royal Victoria Infirmary ; secondly, in 1777, the establishment of a domiciliary service for the treatment of the sick poor, in the form of the Newcastle Dispensary, and thirdly, in 1781, the initial attempt to abate overcrowding in the City by the removal of a portion of the Walls.

Though these were followed in 1804 by the building of a House of Recovery or Fever Hospital, more than half a century was to elapse before further efforts to advance the civic health took shape. This tardiness is difficult to explain, for no city in the kingdom suffered in proportion more grievously from the 19th century visitation of cholera than did our own. Even the holding of a Royal Commission into the great outbreak of cholera which occurred in Newcastle and Gateshead during the autumn of 1853 did little to provoke public opinion into action. It was not until 1867, that a body of influential citizens took upon themselves the task of investigating the causes of ill-health in the City and advised the Town Council as to their removal and prevention. They had been prompted to do this, no

doubt, by the great scarlet fever epidemic of 1866, in which five hundred persons died. Their advice bore fruit in the appointment of a Medical Officer of Health in 1873 and the establishment of a Public Health or Sanitary Committee in 1874. The former appointment was not particularly popular with certain councillors, and was derided as being "of no more use to the town than an umbrella to a duck."

Nevertheless, from that time forward improvements in the sanitary condition of the City and in the health of its inhabitants were steady and continuous. The tenure of office of the first Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Henry E. Armstrong, was characterised by the introduction of those measures of infectious disease control, of district inspection, of workshop supervision, and of care for the purity of the water, milk and food supplies, which are the bases of our present environmental protection.

During the years of his successor, Dr. Harold Kerr, there came into being the more personal health services, which are associated with the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis, the care of motherhood and the young child, the treatment of venereal disease, the remodelling of the domiciliary service for the sick poor, and the provision of general hospital accommodation for all members of the community who require it.

Step by step, guided by their Medical Officers of Health, the Health Committees of the past sixty years have built up the great range of services which are described in the pages that follow, and the public health of Newcastle has benefited incalculably by their labours. They have been aided in this work by the constant and unwearying efforts of the voluntary hospitals of the City, and their management committees and medical and nursing staffs. Any acknowledgment of our debt to these institutions can be but partial and altogether inadequate.

The statistical evidence which is now at our disposal shows clearly the effect of all these forces of municipal and voluntary effort. In the small table which follows it will be seen that the trend of the important death rates, with the outstanding exception of cancer, has been steadily downwards.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

	1871-1875	1901-1905	1931-1935
Population	136,204	224,491	286,990
Birth rate, per 1,000 population ...	41.5	32.4	16.7
Death rate, per 1,000 population ...	28.8	19.5	12.8
Infantile Mortality rate, per 1,000 children born	191	155	83
Pulmonary Tuberculosis deaths, per 1,000 population	2.18 (1881-85)	1.73	0.95
Cancer deaths, per 1,000 population ...	0.43 (1881-85)	0.94	1.43
Zymotic (i.e., infectious diseases) deaths, per 1,000 population ...	5.0	1.6	0.6

(The rates stated are the *average* annual rates for the period).

But statistics are not the sole proof of achievement. More tangible evidence is available on every side.

The slums of the preceding generation are fast disappearing ; newer standards of comfort and amenity are being reached in the homes of the people ; tuberculosis and the infectious diseases generally are diminished in strength ; motherhood is safer ; childhood an adventure devoid of many of its old perils ; there is longer and fuller expectation of life for everyone.

This booklet sets out to describe briefly and without detail the manifold activities which are comprised by the Public Health Services of the City. It is also its aim to bring them to the notice of every citizen, for their capabilities are almost unbounded, and they will thrive on use.

YEAR 1936.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Population (estimated mid. 1936)	290,400
Area of City (acres)	11,401
Estimated number of houses	77,758
Rateable value	£2,543,478
Sum produced by 1d. rate	£9,919
Births	4,537
Birth rate (per 1,000 population)	15.6
Marriages	2,474
Deaths	3,878
Death rate (per 1,000 population)	13.1
,, ,, ,, adjusted by comparability factor	14.77
Infantile Mortality (deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	90
Natural increase in population (excess of births over deaths in the year)	659

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH.

Cause.	Number.	Percentage of total deaths.
Diseases of the Heart	871	22.5
Cancer	413	10.6
Diseases of the veins and arteries	412	10.6
Bronchitis and pneumonia	366	9.5
Tuberculosis (all forms)	308	7.9
Do. (Pulmonary)	265	6.8
Diseases of the nervous system	276	7.1
Diseases of the genito urinary system	164	4.2
Diseases of early infancy, and congenital malformations under 1 year	191	4.9

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	Cases notified.	Number of deaths.	Death rate per 1,000 population.
Scarlet fever	937	8	0.028
Diphtheria	693	35	0.117
Enteric fever	8	2	0.007
Erysipelas	176	12	0.041
Cerebro-spinal fever	8	7	0.024
Measles	4,022	17	0.059
Tuberculosis (all forms)	584 (new cases)	308	1.040

Whooping cough, which is not notifiable, caused 7 deaths.

Influenza, which is not notifiable, caused 38 deaths.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES OF THE CITY.

Health Department.

THE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT is situated in the Town Hall buildings, and is open on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5.0 p.m., except on Saturdays, when it closes at 12 noon. The telephone numbers are :—Newcastle 28520 by day, and 27921 by night.

From the Health Department are directed all the various sections of the City Health Committee's organisations. These comprise a very large number of undertakings, the most important of which can be summarised as follows :—

1. General supervision of the health of the City. Preparation of statistical records and reports. Duties under the Cremation Act.

2. Supervision of the sanitary condition of the City. Nuisances. Slum Clearance. Overcrowding. Disinfestation. Water. Milk. Food and Drugs. Factories and Workshops. Atmospheric Pollution.

3. Veterinary Department. Duties under the Diseases of Animals Act. Inspection of meat, provisions, etc. Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.

4. Control and treatment of infectious diseases. The City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Walker Gate. Bacteriological Services. Diphtheria immunisation. Disinfection.

5. The Treatment of Tuberculosis.

6. Maternity and Child Welfare. Municipal Midwives.

7. Venereal Disease. Treatment and Propaganda.

8. Domiciliary Medical Services for the Sick Poor.

9. General Hospital Services. The Newcastle General Hospital.

10. Vaccination.

Certain other services which are related to the health and welfare of the community are administered by other Corporation Committees. Reference is made to them individually on later pages. They are :—

The School Medical Services.—administered by the Education Committee.

Mental Treatment and Mental Deficiency Services. —administered by the Mental Hospital Visiting Committee, and the Mental Deficiency Act Sub-Committee.

Welfare of the Blind.—administered by the Blind Persons Act Committee.

In the following paragraphs attention will be directed to the work of the three main sections which are accommodated in the Health Department.

1.—Office of the Medical Officer of Health.

The duties of this office are largely those of administration and co-ordination. Certain other functions are exercised here which are of importance to the general public.

The Enquiry Office deals with the following :—

Issue of permits to visit patients in the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

Swabbing of persons who have been in contact with diphtheria.

Issue of Antitoxin to medical practitioners.

Advice on disinfection of premises, and issue of disinfectant.

Issue of Cremation Forms, and provision of the Medical Referee's authority for cremation.

2.—Department of the Chief Sanitary Inspector (Mr. W. Gray).

The primary function of this department is to supervise the sanitary condition of the City and to maintain the standard of the environmental hygiene of the individual wherever he may be—at home, n the factory or shop, or even in a place of entertainment. Of recent years a multitude of other duties relating to water, milk, food and drugs, etc., have been added, and latterly, tremendously important responsibilities under the recent legislation dealing with Slum Clearance and Overcrowding, have been taken over.

District Inspection is carried out under the direct supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector by a staff of ten inspectors, to each of whom a district of the City is allocated. In that area they are responsible for the routine inspection of houses, dairies and ice cream shops, and all other premises where foodstuffs are sold. In addition they test the ventilation of cinemas, theatres and dance halls, and keep factory and other chimneys under observation for smoke nuisances. Premises where " offensive trades " are carried on, for example, fried fish shops, are also frequently inspected.

Factories and Workshops.—The 2,256 workshops on the register are inspected periodically by two special inspectors, and " out-workers," i.e. persons carrying on trades in their own homes, are visited from time to time.

Food and Drugs.—The execution of the duties under the many Acts and Regulations dealing with the purity of the food supply is in the hands of two special inspectors, who undertake the routine sampling of all foodstuffs and submit the samples to the Public Analyst and to the Bacteriological Laboratory. 1,038 samples were examined in 1936 by the Public Analyst and 899 by the Bacteriological Laboratory.

Common Lodging Houses are visited daily by an Inspector.

Slum Clearance and Overcrowding.—The preparation of schemes for slum clearance and the control of overcrowding are undertaken personally by the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Between 1931 and 1936 the work of the Health Committee as regards slum clearance has resulted in ninety Clearance Orders and six Compulsory Purchase Orders being made. No fewer than 19,436 persons or 6.7 per cent. of the total population of the City will be rehoused under these Orders. The number to be dealt with in the full programme of slum clearance will probably be in the region of 30,000 persons.

Disinfestation.—A Station has recently been established in Merley Road, Walker, for the cyanide disinfestation of furniture removed from slum property prior to its transference to houses on the new estates. The services of this station are also available on request, for the disinfestation of furniture removed from other premises.

The Enquiry Office.—This department deals with any of the matters referred to in the preceding paragraphs.

3.—Veterinary Department.

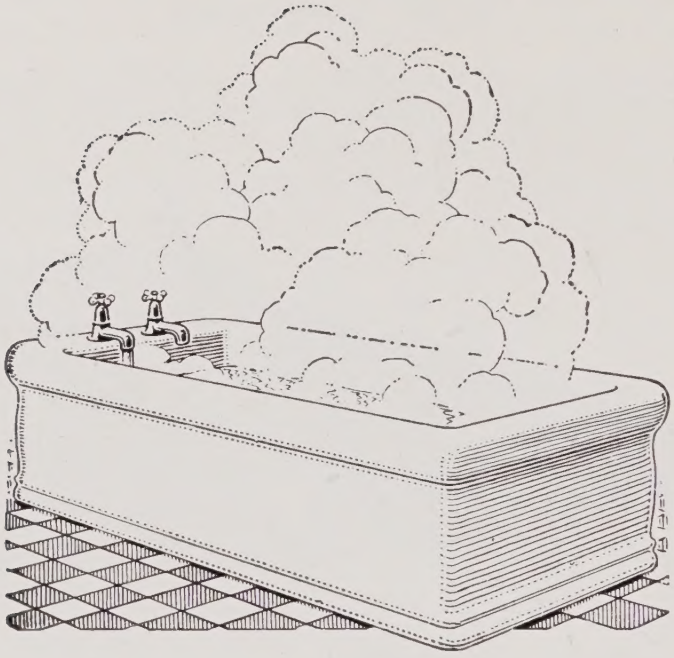
(Veterinary Officer, T. PARKER, Esq., F.R.C.V.S.)

The staff of this department consists of the Chief Veterinary Officer, the Assistant Veterinary Officer, three Assistant Meat Inspectors and a clerical staff.

Slum Clearance.

OLD HOUSES IN THE BUCKINGHAM STREET AREA.

REPLACEMENT HOUSES ON THE CLEARED SITE.



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Newcastle is one of the largest distributing centres in the country of live fat stock, and a very large number of animals are slaughtered each year in the private and public slaughterhouses in the City.

In 1936, 28,499 cattle, 172,844 sheep, 7,358 calves, 47,077 pigs, passed through the Cattle Market.

The greater portion of the Veterinary Department's work consists of meat inspection, and in addition important duties are exercised in preventing and controlling the contagious diseases of animals. The department also supervises and inspects periodically the herds of milch cows within the City's boundaries.

The Chief Veterinary Officer is the responsible Officer under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, and his services are always available in an advisory capacity.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

General Arrangements.

In addition to the infectious diseases which are normally notifiable to the local health department, measles, German measles and chicken-pox are also notifiable in Newcastle.

The policy of the Health Committee for many years past has been to provide hospital treatment for all cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria, the enteric fevers, dysentery and cerebro-spinal fever, and to offer accommodation and treatment to patients suffering from any of the other infectious diseases, e.g., erysipelas, pneumonia, measles and whooping cough, where the home conditions are poor, or where adequate nursing is not available for the patients. These latter facilities are used extensively, and during the past six years, no fewer than 650 cases of erysipelas, 906 of pneumonia, and 999 of measles, have been treated in the wards of the hospital.

Three ambulances for the removal of patients to hospital, and two vans for the collection of infected bedding, are stationed at the City Hospital, where also is situated the disinfecting station for the City.

Hospital Accommodation.

The hospital dealing with infectious sick are two in number, the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Walker Gate, and the Small-pox and Isolation Hospital on the Town Moor.

City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Walker Gate.

Telephone 55131.

This hospital, which is situated on the west side of Benfield Road, is a large, modern and well equipped institution. Its original accommodation when it was built in 1888 consisted of 104 beds for fever patients. The present accommodation comprises beds for 232 fever patients in eight large pavilions and two isolation blocks, and 106 beds for cases of tuberculosis in two special pavilions.

A new twenty-four bedded cubicle isolation ward is being erected during the present year.

The facilities of the hospital include a well equipped bacteriological laboratory, two operating theatres, X-ray plant, ultra-violet therapy and a special department for the treatment of throat, nose and ear complications of scarlet fever.

The staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health as Medical Superintendent, Deputy Medical Officer of Health as Administrative Officer, and three resident Medical Assistants. The Matron controls the nursing and domestic staff and the Steward supervises the male staff consisting of Engineers, Firemen and Ambulance Men, etc.

City Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK.

INTERIOR OF A WARD.

Small-pox and Isolation Hospital, Town Moor.
Telephone, 51316.

This combined hospital is situated on the Town Moor and can accommodate a total of 172 patients. It is kept in a state of readiness for immediate use should any case or outbreak of small-pox occur, but its most frequent function of recent years has been to act as a convalescent annexe to the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Walker Gate.

Admission of Patients to Hospitals : Charges for Treatment, Visiting.

The admission of patients to the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases is obtained either by direct request of the medical practitioner to the Health Department (*Telephone* 28520, *Ext.* 264) or preferably to the Hospital Office at Walker Gate (*Telephone* 55131). Cases will be admitted at any time of the day or night, and ambulance transport will be provided.

The Health Committee does not charge for the treatment of any Newcastle citizen while receiving treatment at the City Hospitals for Infectious Diseases. Where special facilities are provided, e.g., a private ward, at the request of the patient's relatives, a weekly charge is authorised.

Visiting of patients in the infectious wards of this institution is restricted. Only patients who are on the " dangerously ill " list, or who have been resident for unduly long periods in hospital, can be visited by their relatives and friends. Patients in the Sanatorium Pavilions of the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases can be visited on Wednesdays and Saturdays weekly from 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. on production of a permit issued from the Tuberculosis Dispensary,

Additional Infectious Diseases Services.

Diphtheria antitoxin is supplied to all medical practitioners on request as is scarlet fever antitoxin in special cases.

Immunisation against diphtheria is available for all children attending the Child Welfare Centres, and arrangements have been made for the immunisation of school children while attending school. In every case the permission of the parents is obtained.

Bacteriological Services. The arrangements for bacteriological examinations are at the moment of a somewhat temporary character. The facilities provided free for the benefit of medical practitioners in the City include the examination of throat swabs for diphtheria, sputum for pulmonary tuberculosis, specimens of blood and, in certain cases, of the stools for enteric fever, dysentery, etc., cerebro-spinal fluids, and the ordinary diagnostic examinations for venereal disease. In addition, routine examinations of water for bacillus coli, of milk for bacillus coli and the tubercle bacillus are made, as are examinations of designated milks. The water of the swimming baths in the City is also subjected to regular bacteriological examination. Special investigations in outbreaks of food poisoning and allied diseases are carried out when necessary.

At present the examinations referred to are carried out at two separate laboratories :—

A. The Northumberland County Council Laboratory, Newburn (*Telephone, Lemington* 74423), to which should be referred all Venereal Disease specimens.

B. The Bacteriological Laboratory, City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Walker Gate (*Telephone* 55131), to which all other specimens should be sent.

Disinfection. Sick room disinfection is carrieed out by the Infectious Diseases Sanitary Inspectors. Bedding, clothing, etc., are disinfected at the Disinfection Station at the City Hospital. This service is also available for cases other than those of infectious disease, on request to the Health Department.

THE CORPORATION SCHEME FOR THE TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS.

Historical.

In 1908 the first attempt to deal with tuberculosis in Newcastle upon Tyne was made by the renting of 20 beds at Barrasford Sanatorium, which at that time was under the control of a Voluntary Committee. Compulsory notification of tuberculosis was instituted in the City in 1912 and in the same year a Dispensary was established in the Town Hall.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.

In 1914 the Tuberculosis Dispensary was transferred to the premises which it now occupies at 91-93, NEW BRIDGE STREET. The staff of the Dispensary consists of a Tuberculosis Medical Officer (Dr. G. HURRELL) with Medical Assistants, five nurses and three clerks.

Clinics are held daily at the following hours :—

Monday	9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.		
Tuesday	,,	,,	; 2.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
Wednesday	,,	,,	; 6.0 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
Thursday	,,	,,	; 2.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
Friday	,,	,,	.
Saturday	,,	,,	.

New patients will be seen at any of these clinics. They should bring with them, if possible, a note of introduction from their own doctor.

No active treatment is carried out at the Dispensary, it being primarily a place for diagnosis, but X-ray facilities are available at the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Walker Gate, and at the Newcastle General Hospital.

The Tuberculosis Medical Officer visits patients and contacts in their homes when necessary. The nurses also regularly visit the homes of all patients attending the Dispensary. The disinfection of the bedding and homes of patients is carried out when required.

After Care.

The Voluntary After-Care Council was established in 1921 and is subsidised by the City Council. It works in close co-operation with the Dispensary, and provides beds, additional nourishment, etc., when such are indicated.

Institutions and Beds for Treatment of Tuberculosis.

316 Beds for the treatment of tuberculosis are provided in the five separate institutions referred to below :--

INSTITUTIONS.	Number of Beds			Total.	Type of case treated.
	M.	F.	Children.		
Barrasford Sanatorium	57	38	—	95	Pulmonary.
City Hospital for Infectious Diseases..	62	44	—	106	Pulmonary.
Newcastle General Hospital	24	15	24	63	Surgical.
Stannington Children's Sanatorium... ...	—	—	40	40	Pulmonary and Surgical.
Sanderson Orthopaedic Hospital	—	—	12	12	Surgical.
TOTAL	143	97	76	316	

Barrasford Sanatorium—95 beds.

(Medical Superintendent—Dr. C. G. R. GOODWIN).

This Sanatorium, which is situated in the centre of Northumberland, about 25 miles from Newcastle, was taken over by the Corporation in 1921, since when many improvements have been carried out. The institution is intended primarily for the treatment of early cases of pulmonary tuberculosis. All the modern forms of treatment and diagnosis are employed and a dental

clinic for the patients is held fortnightly. Patients who are in a position to learn are taught a variety of handicrafts by a resident instructor.

BARRASFORD SANATORIUM.

GENERAL VIEW OF THE SANATORIUM.

Sanatorium Pavilions, Walker Gate—106 beds.

These pavilions, which are situated in the grounds of the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Walker Gate, have been provided for the type of patient who has already had a period of treatment at Barrasford and is not likely to benefit by further residence at that sanatorium. They are admitted to Walker Gate with a view to obtaining rest and nursing, and such other forms of treatment as may be required to restore them to health. A small number of patients are admitted for observation purposes in order to ascertain definitely whether they are suffering from tuberculosis.

There is also an out-patient department, where patients from the Dispensary are X-rayed and an artificial pneumothorax clinic at which patients who have commenced this form of treatment, either at Walker Gate or Barrasford can continue to attend for refills.

Newcastle General Hospital—63 beds.

Sixty-three beds are in use at this institution for patients suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, of the bones, joints, glands, etc. A clinic has recently been established, under Mr. George A. Mason, F.R.C.S., for the operative treatment of cases of pulmonary disease, to which patients are admitted, not only from the City but from the areas of other local authorities, by arrangement.

Stannington Children's Sanatorium—40 beds.

This Sanatorium is administered by the Poor Children's Holiday Association and 40 beds are rented by the Corporation for the treatment of tuberculosis in children. It is fully equipped, and is staffed and organised on modern lines.

Sanderson Orthopaedic Home—12 beds.

This Institution is administered by a Voluntary Committee, from which the Health Committee rents 12 beds for the accommodation of children who are likely to require long periods of treatment.

Admission of Patients, etc.

The Corporation's scheme provides for the free treatment of all cases of tuberculosis at any of the above institutions.

The Health Committee does not attempt to recover the costs in respect of treatment of any person suffering from tuberculosis.

The admission of patients to these institutions is regulated by the Tuberculosis Medical Officer from the central office at the Tuberculosis Dispensary.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Historical.

The foundations of this work were laid in 1901 when the Health Committee first appointed two Health Visitors. In 1919, after the passing of the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, the whole of the work hitherto carried out by a Voluntary Society, including the nine Centres which it then controlled, was taken over by the Health Committee; a whole time Medical Officer was appointed in charge of the Maternity and Child Welfare Section of the Health Department in 1920.

Staff.

The staff of the department now consists of a Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Officer (Dr. A. F. G. Spinks), Assistant Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Officer, twelve part-time Medical Officers, twenty-six Health Visitors, a Clerical Staff and four Sewing Teachers. The offices of the department are situated in Half Moon Chambers, 10, Bigg Market. (Telephone 28520).

Health Visitors.

The births of all children in the City are notified to the Medical Officer of Health, and the majority of these are visited by a Health Visitor approximately 14 days after the receipt of the notification.

Advice is given to the mothers and they are urged to bring their infants to the Child Welfare Centre situated in their district.

It is the policy of the Health Committee to maintain as far as possible, supervision of the health of all children until the age of five has been reached, and they come under the care of the School Medical Services. This supervision is obtained either by the periodical visit by the Health Visitor, or preferably by the attendance of mother and child at a Welfare Centre.

The Health Visitors also visit all notified cases of measles and pneumonia, and give advice to the mothers on the nursing of these cases.

Child Welfare Centres.

A mother who wishes to obtain advice as to the health of her child or children under the age of five should go to the Welfare Centre in her district.

There are now 16 Centres in this City. The situation of these, together with the times at which clinics are held, are set out in the table on pages 26 and 27.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

Centre.	Address.	Baby Sessions.	Sewing Classes.
Benwell	Y.W.C.A. Club, Buddle Road ...	Monday, 10 a.m. ,, 2 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. ,, 2 p.m.	Tuesday, 2 p.m.
Benton	St. Francis Church Hall, Cragside ...	Thursday, 2 p.m.	——
Byker...	Sun-Ray Clinic, Brinkburn Street ...	Monday, 10 a.m. ,, 2 p.m. Tuesday, 10 a.m. ,, 2 p.m.	Thursday, 2 p.m.
City	Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Jubilee Road	Tuesday, 10 a.m. ,, 2 p.m.	Friday, 2 p.m.
Cowgate	Methodist Church Hall, Stamford-ham Road	Wednesday, 10 a.m. ,, 2 p.m.	——
Diana Street ...	25, Diana Street	Tuesday, 10 a.m. ,, 2 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. ,, 2 p.m.	Wednesday, 2 p.m.
Elswick	Wesleyan Church Hall, Malvern Street	Monday, 10 a.m. ,, 2 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. ,, 2 p.m.	Tuesday, 2 p.m.
Fenham	Church Hall, Grange Road	Friday, 10 a.m. ,, 2 p.m.	Friday. 2 p.m.

Child Welfare Centres.—Continued.

Centre.	Address.	Baby Sessions.	Sewing Classes.
Heaton	St. Gabriel's Parish Hall, Chillingham Road	Wednesday, 10 a.m. ,, 2 p.m.	——
Scotswood	St. Margaret's Parish Hall, Norland Road	Tuesday, 10 a.m. ,, 2 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m.	Tuesday, 2 p.m
Shieldfield	St. Jude's Parish Hall, Dinsdale Road	Monday, 10 a.m. ,, 2 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. ,, 2 p.m.	Wednesday, 2 p.m.
St. Anthony's ...	St. Anthony's Road, Walker	Wednesday, 10 a.m. ,, 2 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. ,, 2 p.m.	Wednesday, 2 p.m.
Spital Tongues ...	Benson Memorial Chapel, Ancrum Street	Tuesday, 2 p.m.	Tuesday, 2 p.m.
Walker	Presbyterian Church Hall, Rhodes Street	Monday, 10 a.m. ,, 2 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. ,, 2 p.m.	Thursday, 2 p.m
Walker Gate ...	Conservative Hall, Walpole Street...	Thursday, 10 a.m. ,, 2 p.m.	Thursday, 2 p.m.
Wharncliffe Street	18, Wharncliffe Street	Wednesday, 10 a.m. ,, 2 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. ,, 2 p.m.	Monday, 2 p.m.

Services Provided at the Centres.

At the Welfare Centres children are weighed and measured and most of them are seen and examined at every session by the Medical Officers who give advice to mothers. Cases requiring special treatment are referred to private doctors or to appropriate hospitals. Children suffering from dental or ear defects are referred to and treated at the special clinics for these conditions organised by the Education Committee.

A specially trained Orthopaedic Nurse supervises all cases of crippled children. For children requiring residential treatment, accommodation is provided in the W. J. Sanderson Orthopaedic Hospital School for Children.

A child guidance clinic has been established at two centres, for the investigation of " problem " children.

Any unemployed family requiring dried milk either for mother or child receives it free. Families with incomes no greater than the corresponding unemployment benefit scale are similarly dealt with. Vouchers for the supply of the commodity at cost price are also issued.

At most centres sewing and knitting classes are held and cooking demonstrations are given at some centres.

Ultra-violet treatment is provided at the Sunray Clinic, Brinkburn Street, and at the Newcastle General Hospital.

The Sunray Clinic, which was established specifically for this purpose by a voluntary committee, was generously handed over to the Corporation by the committee in 1937.

SUNRAY CLINIC.

TREATMENT ROOM.

Municipal Maternity Services.

A Municipal Maternity Service has been established in the City in accordance with the provisions of the Midwives Act, 1936. Twenty-eight Midwives are employed by the City Council and their services are at the disposal of those who need them.

The names and addresses of these Midwives are given below.

MUNICIPAL MIDWIVES.

NAME.	ADDRESS.
Miss Mary Elizabeth Arnold	133, Benton Road, High Heaton.
Mrs. Agnes May Atkinson	75, Blackwell Avenue, Walker.
Miss Mary Teresa Binks	31, Bishops Road, Benwell.
Mrs. Margaret Jane Bland	180, Two Ball Lonnen, Fenham.
Mrs. Sarah Ann Boak	60, Elswick Row, Elswick.
Mrs. Doris Davidson	6, Legion Grove, South Denton.
Miss Daisy Embleton	152, Portland Road, Sandyford.
Miss Sarah Jane Emmerson	364, Westgate Road, Newcastle.
Mrs. Jane Harriet Gladstone	12, Cambridge Street, Newcastle.
Mrs. Helen Kerr Hale	245, Farndale Road, Newcastle.
Mrs. Henrietta Hedley	11, Cullercoats Street, Newcastle.
Mrs. Sarah Ann Herbertson	2, Grainger Park Road, Newcastle.
Miss Grace P. Hood	125, Walker Road, Newcastle.
Mrs. Louisa Ladzrie	92, Tynemouth Road, Newcastle.
Mrs. Ada Mercer	86, Longley Street, Newcastle.
Mrs. Eleanor McChesney	140, Clydesdale Road, Byker.
Miss Ann Marsden	Hardric House, Commercial Road.
Mrs. Harriet Hope More	76, Pendower Way, Pendower Estate.
Mrs. Annie Ethel Peart	120, Two Ball Lonnen, Newcastle.
Miss Mary Peace	38, Armstrong Road, Newcastle.
Mrs. Dorothy Popplewell	146, Heaton Park Road, Heaton.
Mrs. Harriet Lowes Reed	10, Blackwell Avenue, Walker.
Miss Sarah Alice Simpson	"Brancepeth," 422, Denton Road.
Mrs. Martha Raworth Jane Storey, J.P.	38, Breamish Street, Newcastle.
Miss Elizabeth Annie Street	68, Warrington Road, Newcastle.
Mrs. Mona Taylor	"Gordonville," Grace Street, Byker.
Mrs. Nellie Jane Tulip	30, Belle Grove West, Spital Tongues.
Mrs. Mary Josephine Turner	278, Church Street, Walker.

MEDICAL SUPERVISOR	Dr. A. F. G. Spinks, Half Moon Chambers, 10, Bigg Market, Newcastle upon Tyne, 1.
NON-MEDICAL SUPERVISOR	Mrs. Esther Walker, Half Moon Chambers, 10, Bigg Market, Newcastle upon Tyne, 1.

As far as possible patients may choose their own midwives from those resident in their area but each midwife will only be allowed to book a certain number of cases. After any particular midwife has booked her allotted number of cases a choice must be made from other midwives resident in the same area. They are all available day and night and each is provided with a telephone so that she can be readily communicated with. It is always possible to interview the midwives at the Ante-natal Centres where they are in regular attendance.

This service is provided by the Local Authority, but the whole of the cost, or part of it, depending upon the financial circumstances, will be recovered from the patient, or those responsible for her maintenance. In cases of financial stringency the services will be provided free.

The scale of fees laid down by the Health Committee is as follows :—

For Services as Midwife—

For first confinement	£1 10 0
For confinements subsequent to first	£1 5 0

For Services as Maternity Nurse—

For all cases of confinements ...	£1 1 0

In all cases the services are to be provided free to those in poor circumstances.

Pre-natal Clinics.

Pre-natal Clinics have been established for the benefit of expectant mothers who normally will attend accompanied by the midwife they have chosen under the municipal scheme. At the Pre-natal Clinic the expectant mother is examined by the specialist Medical Officer attending and advice is given as to any abnormal conditions found or precautions which may be necessary. Should it be thought advisable arrangements are made for the patient to be confined in hospital.

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The "Villa" range includes: Villa Lemonade and Villa Oatmeal Tonic, each 3d. per bottle, and Villa Ginger Beer, 2d. per bottle; FEN-VILL FRUIT CRUSHES, four flavours, Orange and Grape Fruit Crush, Vilko Fruit Cocktail and Lemon and Barley Water, each 4d. per bottle; FEN-VILL FRUIT SQUASHES, Lemon, Grape Fruit, Orange and Lemon and Barley Squashes; highly concentrated. 20 glasses from every 1/9 bottle.

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Free dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers is provided at the clinics of the Education Committee, and it is possible for a limited number of such women to have a fortnight's rest at a country rest home.

The situation of the Clinics is stated in the table below :—

PRE-NATAL CLINICS.

Centre and Address.	Sessions.
Benwell.	
Y.W.C.A. Club, Buddle Road	...Friday, 2 p.m.
Byker.	
Sun-Ray Clinic, Brinkburn Street	...Friday, 2 p.m.
Diana Street.	
25, Diana Street	...Wednesday, 10 a.m.
Elswick.	
Wesleyan Church Hall, Malvern Street	...Tuesday, 2 p.m.
Fenham.	
Church Hall, Grange Road ...	...Monday, 10 a.m.
Heaton.	
St. Gabriel's Parish Hall, Chillingham Road ...	...Friday, 10 a.m.
St. Anthony's.	
St. Anthony's Road, Walker	...Thursday, 2 p.m.
Scotswood.	
St. Margaret's Parish Hall, Norland Road	...Friday, 10 a.m.
Walker.	
Presbyterian Church Hall, Rhodes Street	...Tuesday, 10 a.m.
Wharncliffe Street.	
18, Wharncliffe Street ...	...Tuesday, 10 a.m.

Hospital Maternity Services.

Sixteen maternity beds are maintained at the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital for the free use of Newcastle patients, and approximately 20 maternity beds are also provided at the Newcastle General Hospital.

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	per ton.
Weetslade Large House Coal	@ 29s. 0d.
Weetslade Cobbles (6″-3½″)	@ 29s. 0d.
Weetslade Treble Nuts (3½″-2″)	@ 29s. 0d.
Weetslade Double Nuts (2″-1⅛″)	@ 27s. 6d.

No extra charge if delivered in bags.

Deliveries to Gosforth, High West Jesmond, Fawdon and Kenton @ 1s. 6d. per ton less than above rates.

A Trial Order will result in Regular Use.

The Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, which possesses 90 beds and cots, is an important teaching school for medical students and midwives, and is administered under voluntary auspices.

At the Newcastle General Hospital it is proposed, in the near future, to build a new Maternity Block accommodating 30 patients, and to provide a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in association with it.

Any woman who wishes to be confined in the Newcastle General Hospital can make arrangements either through a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, or by making application to the Medical Superintendent at the Hospital (*Telephone* **34217**).

The patient will be expected to pay for the cost of her maintenance in hospital which is £1 19s. 6d. per week. When the patient is unable to afford this sum, the charge may be remitted entirely, or a proportion will be charged, based on an assessment of the family income.

Consultant Obstetrical Services.

Should a medical practitioner who is conducting a maternity case require the services of a consultant he can select one from a panel approved by the Health Committee. Arrangements have also been made with the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital to provide a service to deal with cases of obstetrical emergency developing in patients who are being confined in their own homes. When the doctor in attendance is of the opinion that a patient is gravely ill and that her transfer into hospital would be attended by serious risk, he can send a message to the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital requesting assistance. A consultant will join him at the case as quickly as possible, and a nurse with all the necessary emergency equipment will be despatched from the hospital.

Home Helps.

When a woman is about to be confined in her own home, and is unable to provide for the care of her family during that period, she can make application to the Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Officer who will arrange for the services of a " Home Help."

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The women attend at the home daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and carry out the household duties usually undertaken by the mother, exclusive of nursing.

These women receive 25/- per week together with an allowance of 1/6 per day for meals. These charges, or some portion of them, must be met by the patient according to her means.

DOMICILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES.

When the functions of the Guardians were transferred to the City Council, there were 10 Medical Relief Districts in the City. These were served by one full-time District Medical Officer, and eight part-time officers.

Since 1933 arrangements have been made by the Health Committee to form a Joint Medical Relief District which comprises the whole of the City with the exception of the Walker and St. Anthony's Municipal Wards.

In this Joint District a Domiciliary Medical Services Scheme has been inaugurated on the "open choice" method, whereby a person entitled to medical relief is free to select a medical attendant from a panel of Medical Practitioners, who have contracted with the City Council to provide such services.

When a person in receipt of relief applies for a medical order he is shown a list of these doctors and can select the one he wishes to attend.

Drugs, dressings, etc., are supplied to patients in the Joint Medical Relief District from two dispensaries which have been established at the Newcastle General Hospital, and the Newcastle Dispensary, New Bridge Street.

This Scheme is linked up with the Consultant Services of the Newcastle General Hospital on the one hand and with the Nursing Associations on the other.

NEWCASTLE GENERAL HOSPITAL.

This institution, which is situated on Westgate Road, was taken over from the Guardians on the 1st April, 1930. The number of beds at that time was approximately 641, but the number of beds now available is in the region of 800.

The re-organization of the hospital on up-to-date lines has been proceeding steadily since the transfer. The medical staff, both consultant and resident, and the personnel, have been considerably augmented, and improvements both structural and administrative have been carried out since the hospital came under the control of the Corporation.

Plans for a new maternity unit have been prepared and building will commence at an early date. The Schools and Charities Committee has also generously undertaken to provide and staff a Deep X-ray Therapy Department for the treatment of patients suffering from cancer and other diseases.

Recent additions to the facilities of the hospital include the provision of a clinical laboratory, and special departments for the surgical treatment of diseases of the brain, chest, genito-urinary system, and cases of facial deformity, have been established.

Clinics for the treatment and supervision of patients suffering from diabetes and pernicious anaemia have also been organized.

The following table which states the number of admissions, discharges, surgical operations and maternity cases during the last five years shows that the work of the hospital has been steadily increasing.

Year.	Admissions.	Discharges.	Operations.	Maternity Cases.
1932	4,522	4,447	1,428	161
1933	4,776	4,763	1,560	194
1934	5,544	5,555	2,076	225
1935	6,245	6,215	2,722	273
1936	6,707	6,695	2,722	388

THE NEW HOSPITAL BLOCK.

SQUARE OF THE OLD HOSPITAL BLOCK.

Staff.

The staff consists of a Medical Superintendent (Dr. G. P. HARLAN), Deputy Medical Superintendent, and six House Surgeons and House Physicians who are full time officers. There are also 14 part-time Consultants, the majority of whom hold or have held appointments on the staff of the Royal Victoria Infirmary.

Admission of Patients, Charge for Treatment, Visiting.

Patients are admitted to the Hospital either on the order of a Relieving Officer or at the request of a Medical Practitioner to the Medical Superintendent or to the Medical Officer of Health. The provisions of the Local Government Act, 1929, require that the cost of maintenance must be recovered from the patients in accordance with their means. The weekly cost of maintenance at the present time (August, 1937) is £1 19s. 6d.

NEWCASTLE GENERAL HOSPITAL.

WARD INTERIOR—NEW INFANTS DEPARTMENT.

Seriously ill patients can be visited at any time. The ordinary visiting days are Wednesdays and Saturdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Admission to the wards is by card and only two visitors are admitted at one time.

Whitton Tower, Rothbury.

In 1936, Councillor Angus Watson, J.P., generously placed Whitton Tower, Rothbury, at the disposal of the Corporation for use as a convalescent home for children.

The Home is situated on the outskirts of Rothbury and is now equipped for the accommodation of 30 children and the necessary staff. Convalescent children are admitted from the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Walker Gate, the Newcastle General Hospital, and the voluntary hospitals dealing with children's diseases. The work of the Health Committee in improving the health and welfare of the city children has been greatly facilitated as the result of Councillor Watson's inspiring gift.

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VENEREAL DISEASES.

A Clinic for the treatment of Venereal Diseases is maintained in the grounds of the Newcastle General Hospital by the Health Committee, in association with the Health Committees of Durham, Northumberland and Gateshead.

The Clinic is known as "The Joint Committee's Clinic."

Free treatment, under a pledge of secrecy, is provided for cases, or suspected cases, of Venereal Diseases in both sexes at the clinic and in special wards at the hospital.

The Clinic is under the direction of the Clinical Medical Officer, Dr. A. E. W. McLachlan.

The following table gives the hours when clinics are held and when treatment is available :—

Medical Officers' Hours
(Male and Female patients).

Monday to Friday ...	10 a.m. to 12 noon. 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. to 11 a.m. 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Hours for Treatment
(Male and Female).

Monday to Saturday ...	7.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.
Sunday	10 a.m. to 12 noon.

VACCINATION.

The Public Vaccinators and Vaccination Officers, formerly under the administration of the Board of Guardians, were transferred to the control of the City Council in 1930.

In addition to vaccination in infancy, facilities for free vaccination or re-vaccination are available for those who desire it.

The names and addresses of the Public Vaccinators, and the Vaccination Officers, can be obtained on application to the Health Department.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES.

The systematic medical inspection of school children was inaugurated on the passing of the Education (Administrative Provisions) Act, 1907. Under the same Act, Education Authorities were empowered, subject to the approval of the Board of Education, to make arrangements for treatment of the various ailments found in the course of inspections. By the Education Act, 1918, it became the duty of Education Authorities to provide medical treatment as well as medical inspection. There has since been a gradual and progressive development of the work.

The staff of the Medical Department consists of a Principal School Medical Officer (Dr. G. Foggin), a Chief Assistant School Medical Officer, four Assistant School Medical Officers (two men and two women), one full-time Throat, Ear and Nose Specialist, one Orthopaedic Surgeon (part-time), one Anaesthetist (part-time), and six Dentists working in six well-equipped Dental Clinics.

The Nursing Staff consists of three trained Masseuses and twenty-one fully qualified Nurses, while the Clerical Staff consists of six Assistants for the Medical Officers, six Dental Attendants and two Assistants engaged primarily in clerical work.

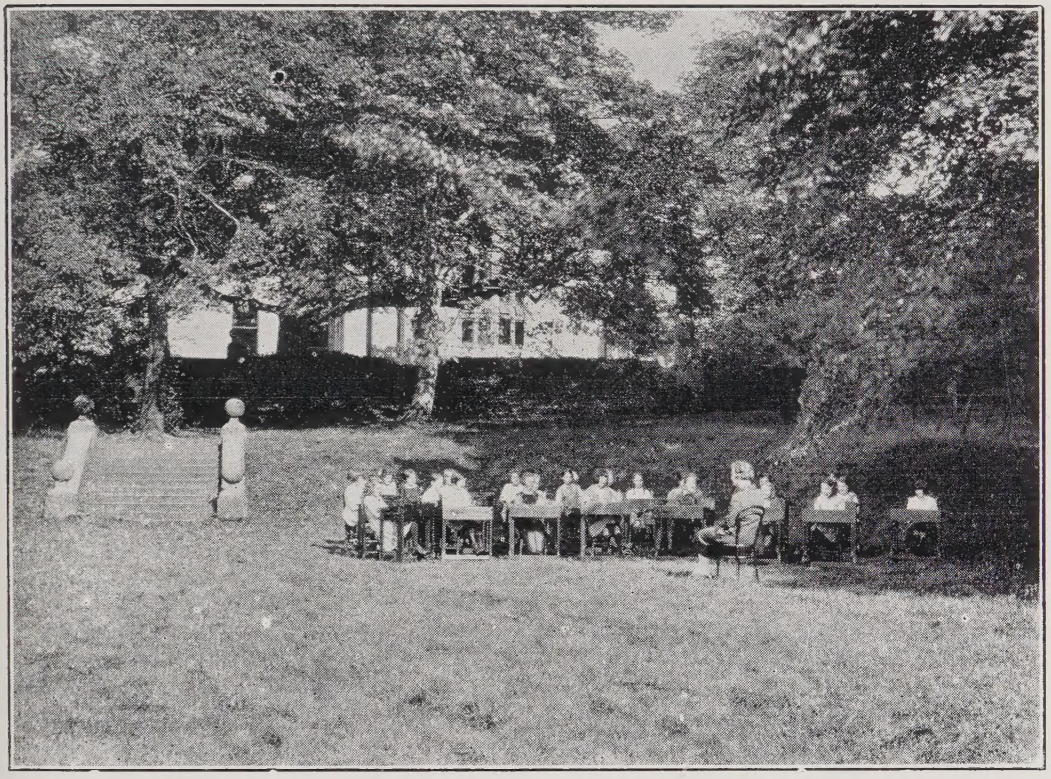
The facilities provided by the School Medical Service include :—

1. Treatment of minor ailments (slight accidents, sore eyes, running ears, skin troubles, verminous and dirty heads, etc.).

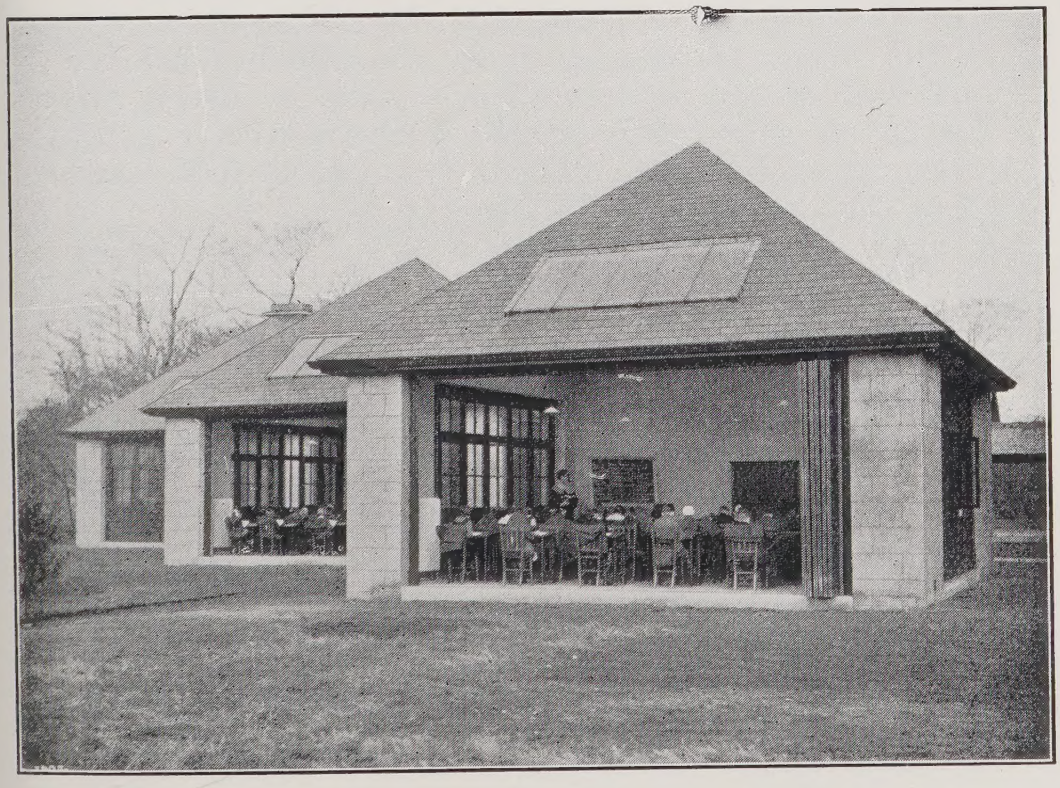
2. Dental treatment.

3. Treatment for eye defects, classes for partially sighted children and the provision of spectacles.

PENDOWER OPEN-AIR SCHOOL.



CLASS IN OPEN-AIR.



OPEN-AIR CLASSROOMS.

4. (*a*) Specialist advice on throat, ear and nose troubles.

   (*b*) Operations for tonsils and adenoids in a special clinic, with wards, at the Pendower Open-Air School, where about thirty operations are performed each week.

5. Specialist supervision and treatment (massage, electricity, etc.) for crippling defects and provision of surgical appliances.

6. Provision in special schools and in residential hospital schools (where necessary) for children who are blind, deaf, dumb, epileptic, mentally defective, crippled or delicate.

7. Nursery schools (2); Nursery classes (2).

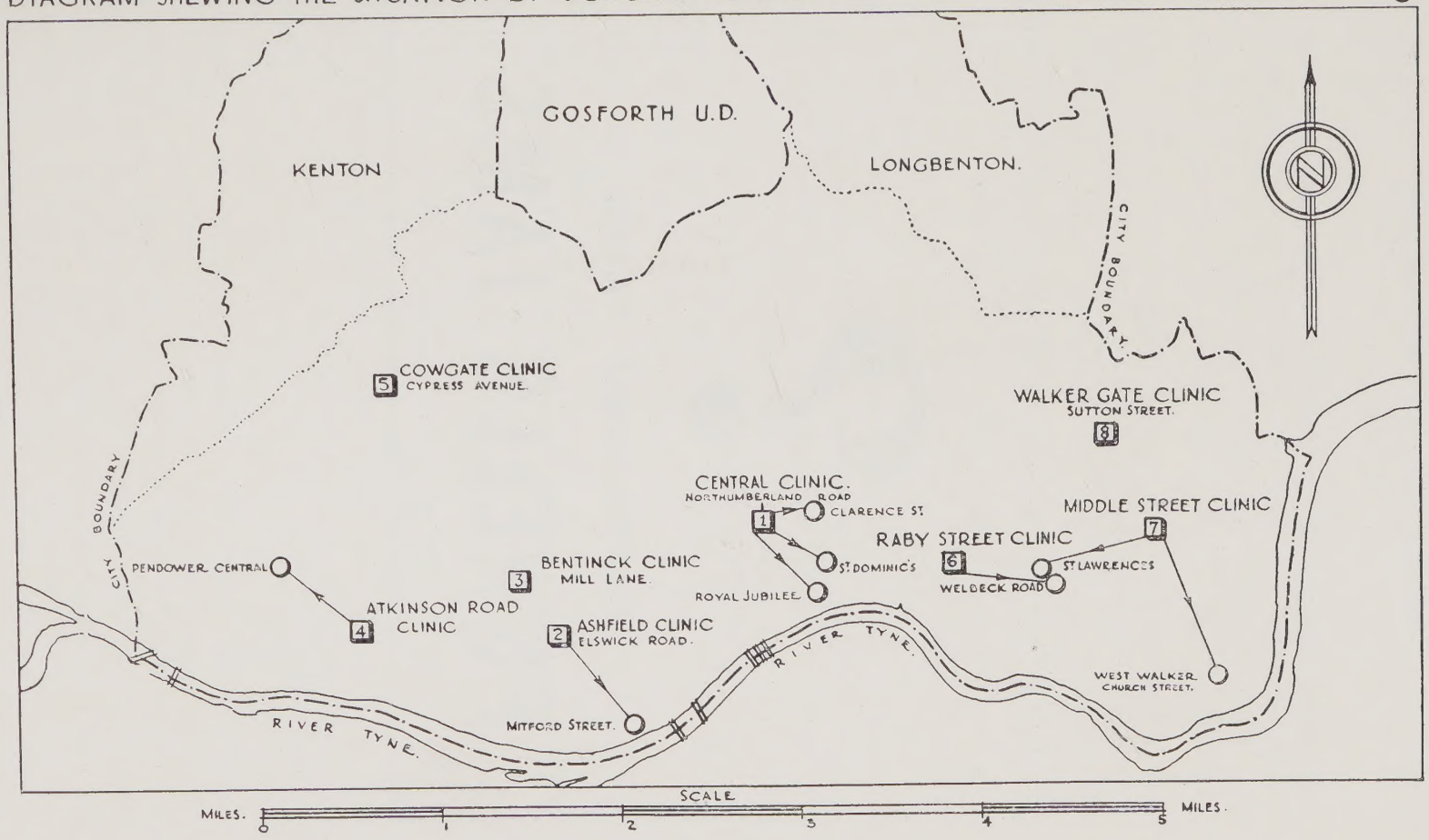
8. Provision of meals, central kitchen, milk, etc.

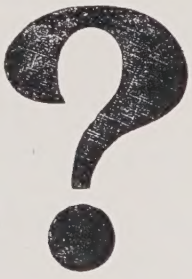
By arrangement with the Health Department, all these facilities are available for the pre-school children attending the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

The following diagram shows the distribution over the City of the various Clinics, some of which are conducted on ordinary school premises with a great saving of time to the children, who only need to leave their classes for a few minutes.

DIAGRAM SHEWING THE SITUATION OF SCHOOL CLINICS

DISTRICT CLINICS SHEWN THUS □
SCHOOL CLINICS SHEWN THUS — ○





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POWELLS JAMS

BLIND PERSONS SERVICES.

The Council have appointed the Newcastle and Gateshead Home Teaching Society for the Blind as their Agents in connection with the administration of certain of their duties under various Acts and Schemes.

The Council adopted a Scheme for the provision of domiciliary assistance to unemployable or other necessitous blind persons by which a necessitous unemployable blind person ordinarily resident in the City who is 18 years of age is granted such weekly amount as will make up the weekly income of such blind person to a maximum of 25/-, it being intended that all such blind persons resident in the City whether married or single should receive from all sources at least that amount for his or her own personal maintenance. In the case of a man and wife, both of whom are blind and unemployable, residing in the same house, such financial assistance is granted as may be necessary to ensure that they will have a joint income of 40/- per week.

The amount of assistance to be given to a blind person under 18 years of age, unemployed, partly employed or wholly employed blind persons, is determined on the merits of each case.

The Council have also adopted a Scheme for the provision of domiciliary relief to the dependants of blind persons in accordance with the declaration made by the Council and financial assistance is given so that in the case of a blind man with a sighted wife the grant is such amount as to ensure that the joint income of the couple shall be not more than 35/- per week (inclusive of any grant made to the blind person under the other scheme). Allowances to dependant children under 16 are made in accordance with a scale approved by the Public Assistance Committee and in operation when the grants are awarded. Special grants are awarded in exceptional cases.

The education and training of children and adult blind persons is undertaken by the Education Committee.

The Council have erected new Workshops for the Adult Blind at Benwell and these Workshops are the property of the Newcastle Corporation and administered and managed in accordance with a scheme adopted by the Newcastle Council, the Gateshead Council and the Northumberland County Council. The Workshops provide accommodation for 120 workers, as to 80 from Newcastle and 20 from Gateshead and Northumberland County respectively.

The Council also give a Grant of £140 per annum to the National Library for the Blind for services rendered in the City in connection with the provision of books etc., for blind persons.

MENTAL TREATMENT AND MENTAL DEFICIENCY SERVICES.

MENTAL TREATMENT.

The City Mental Hospital.

The Newcastle upon Tyne Corporation own and maintain at Gosforth, in the County of Northumberland, a hospital for the reception and treatment of persons suffering from mental illness. The hospital is situated in 95 acres of land, and provides accommodation for 1,085 male and female patients.

The majority of the patients are certified insane, but there are a number of voluntary patients under the Mental Treatment Act, 1930. Apart from the facilities afforded to them for ordinary medical treatment, the patients are encouraged to have some active interest in life. An example of this is shown by the introduction of Occupational Therapy. In the Occupational Therapy Room, the more intelligent and progressive patients are taught to make various articles, such as furniture, brushes, toys, mats, basket-work and the like.

Mental Out-patient Clinic.

Arrangements have been made whereby a Mental Out-patient Clinic is held every Friday afternoon throughout the year in the Out-patient Department of the Royal Victoria Infirmary. The Medical Superintendent of the Mental Hospital or other member of the medical staff is in attendance. The services of the clinic are used by both Newcastle residents and patients from the neighbouring areas.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

Shotley Bridge Colony.

The Corporation also own and maintain at Shotley Bridge, in the County of Durham, a Mental Deficiency Institution for the reception and treatment of mental defectives of all classes. The institution is situated in 56 acres of land, and the existing accommodation provides for 444 male and female defectives. This accommodation is at present being extended by the erection of Low Grade Blocks for both sexes.

As far as practicable, the inmates are classified according to their sexes, abilities and habits, and opportunities are afforded them of suitable training and occupation.

The Workshops provide occupations and training in all available spheres of activity, such as joinery, cobbling, basket-work, toy making, mattress repairs and tailoring, and such arts as crochet, needle-work, leather work, raffia and seagrass work, rug and mat making, fancy and decorative work.

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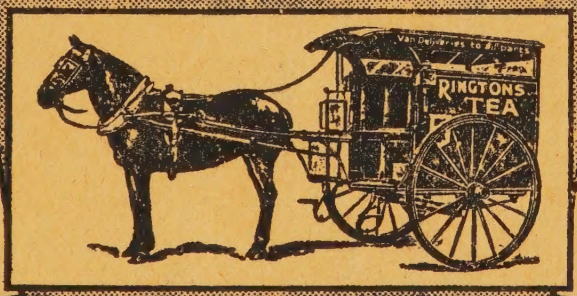

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